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LETTER DATED 28 JUNE 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL

In accordance to Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 26 June 1999 addressed to you by Ahmed Esmat Abdel Meguid, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, concerning the repeated and indiscriminate widespread Israeli aerial bombardment against the territories of Lebanon, targeting innocent civilians and vital utilities and infrastructure (see annex). The League of Arab States therefore calls for swift action to put an end to this situation which constitutes a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law.

In bringing these dangerous developments to the attention of the members of the Security Council, the League of Arab States calls attention to the need to implement Council resolution 425 (1978), in which the Council, inter alia, called upon Israel to respect the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries, and to withdraw its forces from all Lebanese territory. Accordingly, the League of Arab States holds Israel responsible for all material damages to the utilities and other damages sustained by the civilians. It also demands that Israel pay compensation to the Government of Lebanon for all the damages caused.

I should be grateful if you would draw the attention of the members of the Security Council to the present letter and its annex, and have these two texts circulated as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Ali A. ABBAS
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Letter dated 26 June 1999 from the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States addressed to the President of the Security Council

You are no doubt aware of the serious consequences of the large-scale aerial bombardment which Israel has just carried out against civilian targets in the territory of Lebanon. The bombing has caused heavy material damage and taken a high toll in human lives, killing and injuring a large number of innocent civilians and inflicting severe damage on vital installations and infrastructure in Lebanon.

We strongly condemn the repeated acts of aggression committed by Israel against Lebanon and consider these acts of terror to be an escalation of hostilities which can only increase tensions and adversely affect the efforts being made to advance the peace process.

We therefore urgently request you to take the appropriate action to ensure the adoption of the measures necessary to put an end to the acts of aggression and violation by Israel, to secure compliance by the Israeli Government with Security Council resolution 425 (1978), which calls upon Israel to withdraw forthwith its forces from all Lebanese territory and to respect the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Lebanon, and to compel the Israeli Government to pay compensation for the damage which its repeated attacks against the territory of Lebanon and its repeated violations of the agreement of April 1996, of the Charter of the United Nations and of the resolutions of international legal bodies has inflicted on Lebanon.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmed Esmat ABDEL MEGUID
Secretary-General
of the League of Arab States